

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

EUR-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DPW-01 BIB-01 /083 W

-----011246Z 004824 /46

R 011042Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8822

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 2475

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT TH

SUBJECT: ARMORED RADIO STATION CEASES REGULAR PROGRAMMING

SUMMARY: ARMORED RADIO STATION (YANKRO) CEASED REGULAR PROGRAMMING FEB 1 AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT ITS DIRECTOR, COLONEL UTHAN SANITWONG NA AYUTTHAYA, HAD TURNED HIMSELF IN TO THE BANGKOK MILITARY COMMAND FOR CRITICISING THE THANIN GOVERNMENT OVER THE CLOSURE OF PATINYA MAGAZINE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARMORED RADIO STATION (YANKRO) CEASED ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING AT APPROX 10:30 AM FEB 1 AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT ITS DIRECTOR, COLONEL UTHAN SANITWONG NA AYUTTHAYA, HAD VOLUNTARILY TURNED HIMSELF IN THAT MORNING TO GENERAL SOEM NA NAKHON, BANGKOK PEACEKEEPER, FOR USING ERRONEOUS METHODS TO PROTECT THE NATION. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT COLONEL UTHAN WAS DOING THIS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST. STATION IS BROADCASTING PATRIOTIC MUSIC AND REPEATING ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UTHAN HAS SURRENDERED TO GENERAL SOEM.

2. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED AFTER FOUR DAYS OF SHARP CRITICISM BY COLONEL UTHAN OF THE PRESS CENSORSHIP BOARD HEADER BY PRAYAT S NAKHANAT FOR THE CLOSURE ON JAN 18 OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATINYA, A BI-MONTHLY THAI-LANGUAGE MAGAZINE. THE BOARD ANNOUNCED ON JAN 30 THAT PATINYA WAS CLOSED BECAUSE IT PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES CONSIDERED PROPAGANDA FOR THE COMMUNISTS. ONE OF THESE DEALT WITH THE ALLEGED FORMATION OF A THAI GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. THE OTHERS DEALT WITH PROBLEMS IN THAI SOCIETY WHICH COMMUNISTS COULD EXPLOIT, AND WHAT MUST BE DONE TO CORRECT THESE ILLS. COLONEL UTHAN CASTIGATED THE BOARD FOR CLOSING DOWN A

MAGAZINE WHICH ADVOCATED PM THANIN'S IDEAS FOR FIGHTING COMMUNISTS AND FOR PRESERVING THE NATION, ALTHOUGH BY DIFFERENT METHODS.

3. PATINYA WAS PUBLISHED BY PHONGTHEP PHONGPHROT, A FOURTH-YEAR LAW STUDENT AT RAMKHAMHAENG UNIVERSITY, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS THE LEADER OF THE PATIRUP PARTY, CONSERVATIVE STUDENT GROUP ORGANIZED TO COUNTER THE LEFT-WING SATCHATHAM PARTY (LEFT-WING STUDENT PARTY) IN THE PRE-OCT 6 PERIOD. THE AUTHOR OF ONE OF THE OFFENDING ARTICLES WAS SOMCHAI RAKWICHIT, A FORMER RESEARCHER FOR ISOC, WHO HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GENERAL SAIYUT KOETPHON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ISOC.

5. COMMENT: THE "VOLUNTARY SURRENDER" OF COLONEL UTHAN AND THE CESSATION OF REGULAR PROGRAMMING OF THE ARMORED RADIO STATION HAVE CAUSED A STIR IN BANGKOK. COLONEL UTHAN AND YANKRO HAD A WIDE AUDIENCE AND CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITHIN THAILAND DURING THE PRE-OCT 6 ERA. IT WAS AT THE URGING OF YANKRO ON OCT 5 & 6 THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VILLAGE SCOUTS AND OTHER ROYALISTS CAME INTO BANGKOK ON OCT 6 TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MONARCHY. SOME FEEL THAT THEIR PRESENCE WAS THE DEVISIVE FACTOR IN THE MILITARY DECISION TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT. SINCE THE TAKEOVER, COLONEL UTHAN HAS MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE AND YANKRO'S AUDIENCE HAS DIMINISHED. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT COLONEL UTHAN, IF PENALIZED AT ALL, WILL ONLY BE SLAPPED LIGHTLY ON THE WRISTS AND BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO YANKRO.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO02475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3445760
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMORED RADIO STATION CEASES REGULAR PROGRAMMING SUMMARY: ARMORED RADIO STATION (YANKRO) CEASED
REGULAR PROGRAMMING FEB 1 AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT ITS DIRECT
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ETET, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f7308ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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